

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: LWIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES—
APRIL 15, 2005

The minutes and revised agenda from the Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) Advisory Committee conference call on Friday, April 15, 2005, are attached for your review and information. Please ensure that the minutes are provided to the appropriate staff.

If you have any questions regarding the minutes, please contact James Scholl, at (916) 657-4610.

/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER
Chief
Workforce Investment Division

Attachments

LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Friday, April 15, 2005

Agenda

10 a.m.	Welcome/Hot Topics	Bob Hermsmeier, Workforce Investment Division (WID)
	Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Grant	Deborah Bronow, UI Branch
	California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) Update	David Militzer, CWIB

The next tentative conference call—May 20, 2005

LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Friday, April 15, 2005

Welcome/Hot Topics—Bob Hermsmeier, Workforce Investment Division (WID)

- Welcome, Fred Slone—We are very happy to welcome Fred Slone of San Mateo as the Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) Advisory Committee's newest member. We really appreciate Fred being willing to be part of the Advisory Committee. Patti Nunn of Santa Ana was on the Advisory Committee and has since retired. We were looking for a certain type of person with characteristics and qualities that we felt would benefit the Advisory Committee. We looked for folks who were articulate and willing to speak up, a fresh face, and someone with new ideas. Fred is also benefiting us by coming from the private sector fairly recently and brings with him a great deal of knowledge associated with the employer's side of the workforce development program. Again, we're very happy that Fred has agreed to be apart of the team, so welcome aboard, Fred.
- AB 678—The AB 678 is non-controversial legislation sponsored by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA). This bill calls for continuous appropriation of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding for formula funds for local areas without a signed State budget. We're very hopeful this piece of legislation makes it through and gets signed by the Governor. The California Workforce Association (CWA) has offered to lobby for the bill if the need arises. This bill, if passed into law, would take effect in January 2006.
- Sub-State Allocations for Program Year (PY) 2005-06—Federal numbers for the allocations have been received and the Labor Market Information Division (LMID) is processing the calculations. The LMID will forward the calculations to WID. The WID will then conduct final edit checks and distribute the allocations to the local areas by the end of April.
Subsequently, the allocations were distributed to the local areas on April 26, 2005, per Information Bulletins [WIAB04-95](#), *Youth Allocations PY 2005-06*, and [WIAB04-96](#), *Formula Allocations for PY 2005-06 and Federal Rescission for PY 2004-05*.
- Agriculture and Public Data Concerns Related to Allocations—There are several rural LWIAs that may be disadvantaged by the fact that the Bureau of Labor Statistics no longer tracks agriculture or public layoff data and the impact upon the allocations. The WID is analyzing the situation to determine the magnitude and will then discuss potential solutions with the Director's office and LWDA.

- Rapid Response Update for PY 2004-05—Directives [WIAD04-8](#), *Applications—Rapid Response Special Projects Funding PY 2004-05*, dated October 4, 2004, and [WIAD04-9](#), *Dislocated Worker 25 Percent Funding Policy*, dated October 14, 2004, were previously issued informing the local areas that authority for Rapid Response funding ends on June 30, 2005. There is no carry-forward and no bridge funding. The bridge funding plan used in preceding years is not in place this year.
- Local Planning Guidance—There is minimal change to the local planning requirements for PY 2005-06. The local planning guidance is being completed and will go out in the same timeframe as the allocations. The planning guidance will require local areas to do routine modifications to their local plans. There may be a future need to make further modifications to local plans based on the development and content of the final State Plan. The WID would then issue a request for local plan modifications to bring it into line with the State Plan.
- Community College Nurse Education Initiative—The Governor has designated up to \$6 million of WIA 15 Percent funds for a program that will increase the number of nurses in the State. There is a \$2 for \$1 match requirement for these funds. The initiative will last five years and will provide up to \$90 million (\$30 million of WIA and \$60 million of matching funds) for nurse education and supportive services. The Community Colleges have the lead and will work with entities within their local areas to submit projects. As more information is available, WID will inform the local areas through information bulletins. At this time, WID is working with Community Colleges to put together the Request for Applications package.
- UI Branch Printouts—Deborah Bronow, Deputy Director of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Branch, in response to the concerns raised regarding Job Service (JS) Notice 05-006a, dated March 18, 2005, met with Virginia Hamilton of CWA and discussed concerns regarding release of confidential data. The JS Notice indicated that JSB staff would not be doing screen prints locally. The UIB has developed an automated tool that would shield certain pieces of information, i.e., employer account numbers, from being released. Due to concerns raised, the JS Notice was suspended on April 21, 2005.

The UIB and JSB are looking at an approach that will give the local areas the information they need in a more efficient and timelier manner. A UIB workgroup is being created to conduct internal research and EDD is asking CWA and two members from the Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB) to participate as ad hoc members. This will be done on a fast-track basis in order to make it a better environment for UIB staff, JSB staff, and LWIB staff. San Bernardino and North Central Consortium offered to be ad hoc members of the workgroup.

- New Department of Labor (DOL) Reporting Guidance—On March 29, a federal notice on reporting came out in Training Employment Guidance Letter 28-04 as an emergency regulation. The two-week comment period ended on April 14. The WID is working with the National Governor's Association and the National Association of State Workforce Agencies regarding this issue. The WID will be getting some guidance and direction out related to this from the perspective of the State. One of the topics includes the definition of a participant and how it affects performance and

reporting. The State is attempting to get clarification and believes the new requirements will not disrupt the flow of clients or the reporting structure under WIA. Retention and dislocated worker wage replacement definitions are changing, and wage replacement for dislocated workers is now the same as the adult wage gain measure. Some the reporting timeframes have changed as well as some of the standard records we report on, so there will be changes to the Job Training Automation system. We will be putting this information out to the local areas under an information bulletin or directive. This will be effective July 1, 2005.

A Management Information System group meeting will be scheduled for late May or early June to discuss changes in reporting definitions. The Sacramento LWIA has volunteered to make their facility available for the meeting.

- Waiver Requests for Performance—Bob Hermsmeier said the State doesn't have a waiver on performance and are not seeking a waiver in the State Plan relative to performance so California will be held to the 17 performance measures. The common measures coming into play on July 1 will affect some of the performance definitions, so California will be running a double track system of performance and maintenance of records and reporting. The State is expediting a waiver request to the federal government to exempt us from performance measurement under the 17 WIA standards for PY 2005-06 and succeeding years, but it will be done outside the State Plan. It is one of our highest priorities.

California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) Update—Paul Gussman, CWIB.

- The draft Two-Year Plan has been on the CWIB Web site since April 1. The deadline for comments was April 30.
- The CWIB has been meeting with several entities for additional input. There are three special committees, (1) The High Wage-High Growth Jobs Committee, (2) The Statewide Shortages Committee, and (3) The Advancing Workers Committee, whose essential focus is on the key questions within the plan guidance. The CWIB met with two other groups, a local area group, as well as State partners that are involved in the plan. The CWIB also met twice with the local areas, the last of which was on April 11, and received great input.
- The Board Meeting was held on April 12. The primary focus was to get additional input for the Two-year Plan. The State Board staff did a quick overview of the process. Jamie Fall, from LWDA, presented an overview of the first and second sections of the Plan. There were only a few comments on the draft plan.
- The approval of the Plan is scheduled for the May 12 Board Meeting and it will be sent to DOL via the Governor's office by May 31. The May 12 agenda will include discussion of an action plan for each of the committees.
- Mike Curran of NOVA expressed a concern that had been raised by CWA that most of State Plan dealt with what the State wanted to do. It was silent on the fact that most of the delivery of services occurs at the local level. The State Plan should

include the partnering with the local areas on how to best achieve the statewide goals.

Paul Gussman responded by saying that the draft plan was in response to the federal requirements with a very short timeline. It is really the start of the planning process, a framework of where California wants to go. A global perspective first, then we have to move to the actual work and the locals are central to that work.

UI Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) Grant—Deborah Bronow, UI Branch (UIB).

In August 2004 DOL requested applications for grant funds. The grant opportunity focused on UI Eligibility reviews.

The UIB applied for a grant and received the REA grant from DOL in March and has been moving forward. On April 7, a notice was sent to UI staff, JS staff, and the workforce community.

The UIB is in the process of identifying One-Stop centers within 25 miles of a UI primary office in order to place UI-trained eligibility review staff to work on this effort. With such a short turnaround, the focus is to quickly get the program up and running. The component is to schedule clients for an in-person interview to discuss UI eligibility provisions. It will be a very structured interview process. It is expected, based upon historical data, there will be close to a 40 to 50 percent dropout rate, even though 120,000 interviews are scheduled. The UI will also partner with the local areas. The local sites UI is considering are Los Angeles, the Bay Area, and Sacramento. The UIB is considering placing two staff in the selected sites to conduct individual interviews of UI claimants. The UIB plans to work closely with the local One-Stop to include any generic information the One-Stop may wish shared with the UI claimant, as well as provide unique information or screening on behalf of the One-Stop for selected individuals who may meet their specific needs.